

REMARKS

The Office Action of May 13, 2003 was received and carefully reviewed. By the above amendments, claims 3, 4, 6, 15, 17 and 19 have been cancelled and claims 1, 5, 13 and 18 have been amended. Claims 1, 2, 5, 7-14, 16, 18 and 20-25 are currently pending. In light of the above actions and for the reasons detailed below, reconsideration of the pending rejection is respectfully requested.

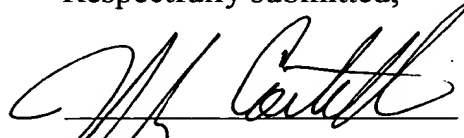
With regard to the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-25, under 35 U.S.C. 112(second paragraph), as being vague and indefinite, this rejection is believed to have been overcome by the amendments to claims 1, 5, 13 and 18 in which Q is set forth to be "B" and "optionally to include C." Additionally, claims 13 and 18 have been amended to correct the error in the relation " $0 < q/(p+q) \leq 0.3 \text{ at}\%$ " since the value of q is always greater than zero. The specification has similarly been amended at paragraphs [0027], [0032] and [0109], to correct this error in the relation.

With regard to the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-3, 5, 7-16 and 18-20, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as being obvious in view of the teachings of Takebuchi ('747), the Applicants assert that this rejection has been rendered moot by the amendment to the independent claims 1, 5, 13 and 19 adding the feature "wherein an amount of oxygen ... is in a range of 2000 ppm to 8000 ppm by weight" which combines the features of canceled claims 4, 6, 17 and 19 which had been indicated as allowable if properly amended. Claims 1, 5, 13 and 18 have also been amended to recite that R2 must contain Y (yttrium) to more specifically clarify the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention.

Having responded to all rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action, it is submitted that claims 1, 2, 5, 7-14, 16, 18 and 20-25 are in condition for allowance. An early and favorable Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited. In the event that the Examiner is of the opinion that a brief telephone or personal interview will

facilitate allowance of one or more of the above claims, the Examiner is courteously requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,



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